

Filed for intro on 01/21/95
House Bill _____
By _____

Senate Bill No.SJR0021
By _____

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Dean John Webster
Wade, Sr.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that this legislative body pause in its deliberations to remember one of the outstanding men in the history of the state of Tennessee, Dean John Webster Wade, Sr., a nationally acclaimed scholar, educator, and humanitarian; and

WHEREAS, it has been said that no other person had as much influence on the shaping of the laws and legal system in our state as did Dean Wade, nor has any Tennessean had as much influence on the national legal system; and

WHEREAS, Dean Wade began his meritorious life in Little Rock, Arkansas, the son of a circuit judge, then moved with his family to Mississippi, where he attended high school and the University of Mississippi; and

WHEREAS, Dean Wade obtained two degrees from the University of Mississippi, graduated at the top of his class, and remained there to educate others about the subject that would become his legacy: the law; and

WHEREAS, this budding professor then accepted a call to the military, where as a Marine, he led other young soldiers through the Marshall Islands, Saipan, and Iwo Jima, earning the distinguished Bronze Star Medal and two Presidential citations for uncommon bravery in battle; and

WHEREAS, with an incredible affinity for the law and an unprecedented devotion to teaching, Dean Wade returned to education and transformed Vanderbilt Law School from a modest, regional institution into a leading national center for legal education; and

WHEREAS, often ahead of his time, this compassionate man, as a champion of causes, led Vanderbilt Law School from being a segregated Southern institution to being a progressive, integrated one; and

WHEREAS, in addition to expanding courses and developing scholarships at Vanderbilt, Dean Wade added faculty and hired the school's first female professor, Martha Craig Daughtrey; a former Tennessee Supreme Court Justice and a judge on the United States Court of Appeals; and

WHEREAS, as a professor, Dean Wade was a master; educating and intriguing students with questions; comforting and motivating incoming freshman; and displaying infinite reason, wisdom, and the integrity that became his hallmark; and

WHEREAS, Dean Wade developed into a leading scholar and prolific writer in the field of torts and restitution; he consulted throughout the United States; and co-authored books including a book on torts that became the most widely used casebook in United States law schools for years; and

WHEREAS, Dean Wade's training in Latin allowed him to perform as few other legal educators ever have, translating the civil law of the Middle Ages and 13th and 14th century cases from Norman French; and

WHEREAS, fortunately for American legal education, Dean Wade's retirement in 1972 did not signal his retirement from his profession as a whole; he returned as a Distinguished Professor, widely-demanded lecturer, and visiting professor at such prominent schools as Columbia University and the University of Missouri; and

WHEREAS, thousands of lawyers, judges, state legislators, and members of Congress owe much of their knowledge and professional development to this man whose commanding influence will live eternally; and

WHEREAS, the law community will forever be indebted to Dean Wade, as he was a productive and influential member of executive committees of the Association of American Law Schools and the American Judicature Society; and past president of the Order of Coif and a long time member and active advocate for the Commission on Uniform State Laws; and

WHEREAS, many other contributions and accomplishments of this great man may forever go unmentioned because of one of Dean Wade's most endearing qualities: modesty; and

WHEREAS, Dean Wade is survived by his loving wife, Mary Moody Wade; two daughters, Mary Wade Shanks and Ruth Ellen Grant; two sons, John W. Wade, Jr. and William J. Wade; and seven grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, although Dean Wade has relinquished this life for a far better existence, the legacy of courage and dignity, tempered with intellect and compassion, that he has left behind will live forever in the hearts and minds of all; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we express our deepest regret at the death of one of the finest Tennesseans of the twentieth century, Dean John Webster Wade, Sr.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That his legacy as a leader, educator, scholar, and humanitarian will forever be championed and not forgotten.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we express our condolences to Dean Wade's family and friends.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final resolving clause omitted from such copy.

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